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Clean Copy of the Claims

Following Entry of This Amendment

1 1.(amended) A local network with a plurality of subscribers each connected to a ring network by
2 an optical data line to transmit data, comprising:

3 a first subscriber is configured as a data source to provide compressed audio and video
4 data;

5 a second subscriber configured to receive transmitted audio data;

6 a third subscriber configured to receive the transmitted video data,

7 a fourth subscriber that includes

8 (i) a bit stream decoder decode the incoming compressed audio and video data and
9 provide decompressed data;

10 (ii) a separating stage that receives said decompressed data and separates audio and
11 video data within said compressed data to provide a decompressed video data signal and a
12 decompressed audio data signal; and

13 (iii) a control unit that controls the transmission of said decompressed video data
14 signal and said decompressed audio data signal onto the ring network.

1 2.(amended) The local network of claim 1, wherein the bit stream decoder is situated before the
2 separation stage in the data stream of the compressed audio and video data.

1 3.(amended) The local network of claim 2, comprising several other data sinks which do not
2 have any bit stream decoders and which forward the data conducted to them by the bit stream
3 decoder of the data sink to the output units associated with them.

1 4.(amended) The local network of claim 1, wherein the data sink with its bit stream decoder is

2 separate from the other data sinks and is connected through an optical data line.

1 5.(amended) The local network of claim 4, characterized in that the data sink is connected to its
2 associated output unit for reproducing one type of data, through a common optical data line for
3 transmitting audio as well as video data.

1 6.(amended) The local network of claim 1, characterized in that the bit stream decoder associated
2 with the data sink is situated in the data stream of compressed audio and video data after the
3 separation stage of the data sink, and that at least one other bit stream decoder in the other data
4 sinks decodes the separated data that are transmitted through the optical data line.

Q' 1 7.(amended) The local network of claim 1, wherein said bit stream decoder comprises an
2 MPEG-1 decoder.

1 8.(amended) The local network of claim 1, wherein the bit stream decoder can be configured as
2 an MPEG-1 decoder, an MPEG-2 decoder, an AC-3 decoder, or an JPEG decoder depending upon
3 the transmitted control data received over the ring network by the bit stream decoder

1 9.(amended) A method for reproducing audio and video data in a local network, comprising:
2 transmitting compressed audio and video data from a data source through an optical data
3 line to a data sink;
4 receiving said compressed audio and video data;
5 decompressing received compressed audio and video data to provide decompressed data;
6 processing said decompressed data at the data sink to provide decompressed audio data and
7 decompressed video data; and

8 transmitting said decompressed audio data and said decompressed video data from the data

Q' 9 sink onto the ring network.

1 10.(amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of receiving, decompressing, processing

2 and transmitting occur in the same data sink.

1 --11. A method for decompressing audio and video data in a local ring network, comprising:

2 at a first data sink, (i) receiving compressed data transmitted along a transmission medium

3 of a local ring network at a first data sink, (ii) processing said compressed data to provide a

4 decompressed audio signal, and (ii) transmitting said decompressed audio signal onto the local ring

5 network; and

Q² 6 at a second data sink, (i) receiving the compressed data transmitted along the transmission

7 medium of the local ring network, (ii) processing said compressed data to provide a decompressed

8 video signal, and (ii) transmitting said decompressed audio signal onto the local ring network.--

1 --12. The local network of claim 1, wherein said bit stream decoder comprises an MPEG-2

2 decoder.--

1 --13. The local network of claim 1, wherein said bit stream decoder comprises an AC-3

2 decoder.--

1 --14. The local network of claim 1, wherein said bit stream decoder comprises a JPEG decoder.-

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1 --15. The local network of claim 1, wherein said bit stream decoder comprises a video decoder

2 and an audio decoder.--

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